

Page 66, line 3, change "said" to --the--.

Page 68, line 16, change "said" to --the--.

Page 69, line 13, change "date" to --data--.

Page 71, line 5, change "said" to --the--.

Page 72, line 21, change "so treated" to --treated so--.

FP 9/21/99. Page 73, line 14, change "said" to --the--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add claims 8-32 as follows:

43 > ~~8. A production system comprising:~~
a plurality of point of sales terminals each including an electronic
interface which obtains sales information concerning sales of a plurality of goods;

61) a main control unit including an input device for receiving the sales information from the point of sales terminals, a main production controller including a production size determining unit for determining a production quantity to be produced in the future for the plurality of goods based on the sales information received from the plurality of point of sales terminals, and an output device for outputting data indicative of the production quantity determined by the production size determining unit; and

a manufacturing unit for manufacturing the plurality of goods based on the sales information which is collected at the plurality of point of sales terminals and transmitted from the plurality of point of sales terminals to the main production controller, wherein after the production size determining unit determines the production quantity, the main production controller transmits the output data indicative of the production quantity determined by the production size determining unit to the production unit and the production unit manufactures the production quantity of the plurality of goods in response to receiving the output data indicative of the production quantity from the main production controller.

9. The production system according to claim 8, further comprising a network for interconnecting the plurality of point of sales terminals and the main control unit.

10. The production system according to claim 8, further comprising a network for interconnecting the main control unit and the production unit.

E1> 11. The production system according to claim 9, wherein the network comprises a public communications network.

12. The production system according to claim 10, wherein the network comprises a public communications network.

13. The production system according to claim 8, wherein the point of sales terminals are located at at least one location where the plurality of goods are sold.

14. The production system according to claim 8, wherein the main control unit comprises a host computer and the production size determining unit is a computer program that is executed on the host computer.

15. The production system according to claim 8, wherein the production unit comprises a computer and a plurality of drive units controlled by the computer for manufacturing the production quantity of the goods.

16. The production system of claim 8, further comprising a raw materials ordering unit receiving the production quantity from the production size determining unit and ordering the raw materials required to produce the production quantity of the goods.

17. The production system according to claim 8, further comprising a directing unit for receiving the production quantity from the production size determining unit and transmitting the production quantity to a raw materials ordering unit and to the production unit.

18. The production system according to claim 8, wherein the sales information collected by the point of sales terminals includes a name of the goods sold and a quantity of the goods sold.

19. The production system according to claim 8, wherein the sales information is directly transmitted from the point of sales terminals to the main control unit.

20. The production system according to claim 8, wherein the point of sales terminals transmit the sales information to the main control unit at a periodic time interval.

21. The production system according to claim 20, wherein the periodic time interval is a daily interval.

22. A production system comprising:

(1) a point of sales subsystem including:

a plurality of point of sales terminals each including a central processor and an input device for receiving and storing information concerning sales of a plurality of products; and

a flexible manufacturing subsystem including:

a main controller receiving the information from the point of sales subsystem and determining a production quantity of the products to be produced in the future based on the sales information received from the point of sales subsystem; and

a manufacturing controller receiving the production quantity from the main controller and controlling a plurality of production drive units for controlling manufacture of the production quantity of the plurality of products determined by the main controller.

23. The production system according to claim 22, wherein the manufacturing controller includes a computer for electronically controlling the plurality of production drive units to set desired speeds and power levels for a plurality of manufacturing machines used to manufacture the production quantity of products determined by the main controller.

24. The production system according to claim 22, wherein the point of sales subsystem includes a network connecting the point of sales terminals to the flexible manufacturing subsystem.

25. The production system according to claim 24, wherein the network is a public communications network.

26. The production system according to claim 22, wherein the flexible manufacturing subsystem further includes a raw materials ordering unit receiving the production quantity from the main controller and ordering the raw materials required to produce the production quantity of the products.

27. The production system according to claim 22, wherein the main controller includes an input device receiving the information from the point of sales terminals, a central processor for executing a program to determine the production quantity of the products to be produced in the future and an output device for outputting the production quantity to the manufacturing controller.

28. A method of manufacturing products, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting sales information about products sold at a plurality of point of sales terminals;

EU transmitting the sales information to a production size determining unit;

executing a computer program at the production size determining unit to determine a production quantity of the products to be produced in the future based on the sales information collected from the point of sales terminals and to generate output data indicative of the production quantity determined at the production size determining unit;

transmitting the output data indicative of the production quantity determined at the production size determining unit to a flexible manufacturing controller; and

manufacturing the production quantity of the products based on the sales information data collected at the plurality of point of sales terminals and in accordance with the output data indicative of the production quantity from the production size determining unit and controlling the manufacturing of the production quantity of the products via the flexible manufacturer controller and based on the production quantity determined by the production size determining unit.

29. The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of ordering raw materials based on the sales information from the point of sales terminals and the production quantity determined by the production size determining unit.

30. The method according to claim 29, wherein the sales information transmitted in the step of transmitting the sales information to a production size determining unit is transmitted via a public information network.